

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I fully endorse the proposed merger. As a current customer of DIRECTV, I am writing to urge you to support the pending merger of EchoStar and HUGHES, the parent company of DIRECTV. I believe the merger will increase video and broadband choices for consumers like me.

The combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable operators by being able to offer me local TV channels via satellite in my market area, which I currently do not receive.

2-way, broadband access to the Internet is not available to me at this time. If the merger is approved, the new company will be able to provide me with affordable high-speed Internet access via satellite along with the other 40 million American households who do not have affordable high-speed Internet access now. As an employee of General Electric, I am strongly encouraged to gain and utilize this high speed access. However, there are currently no available avenues for this, not satellite or even local phone companies.

I appreciate your consideration of my views and look forward to a positive vote in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wayland Sumerlin Jr
6526 Church Street
Grifton, NC 28530